

STEP 2 – PROPOSAL ABSTRACT

Applicant Name: **Butte-Silver Bow Local Government**

Project Title: **Big Hole River Diversion Dam Replacement Project**

Project Description and Benefits to Restoration:

Due to the adverse impacts of past mining and milling operations, the groundwater aquifers in portions of Butte can never be used for potable water. The NRD assessment estimates for lost groundwater resources on the Butte Hill alone exceed 5,000 gallons per minute¹. Consequently, to protect human health, the use of existing groundwater wells is limited and there are prohibitions on new wells in certain areas.

Since 1992, Butte Silver Bow has been responsible for the supply, treatment, distribution, transmission and storage of potable water to our community. These responsibilities were assumed at a time when the water system was in seriously deteriorated condition. Specifically, water consumers inherited a neglected 100-year-old system. At this same time, Butte-Silver Bow ratepayers had to invest over \$50 million to restore and replace its drinking water system that includes a complex infrastructure to import water from across the Continental Divide and from the mountain creeks surrounding Butte. These investments were unconditional and mandatory. There were no alternative sources to develop since the local groundwater is permanently damaged, and neglected improvements by the previous owner had led to federal orders to upgrade the system.

In order to develop a more comprehensive approach to alleviate our lost of groundwater resources, Butte-Silver Bow has, for the past several years, requested Restoration Funds to replace major infrastructure of our surface water resources such as the distribution line replacement project, the Big Hole water transmission line project and the High Service Reservoir Tank Replacement Project. The most immediate priority to our complex surface water system of water transmission lines, distribution lines, pumping stations, and reservoirs is the sustainability of the water supply provided by the Big Hole River Diversion Dam.

Butte-Silver Bow is proposing to replace the Big Hole River Diversion Dam in the 2010 construction season. The Big Hole River Diversion Dam has outlived its usefulness. The Butte-Silver Bow Public Works Department has completed several minor and major repairs the Diversion Dam over the past eighty years. Those repairs have been temporary and the Big Hole River Diversion Dam is in serious need of replacement.

Butte-Silver Bow is requesting **\$3,768,833.00** in NRD funds, and pledges **\$441,012.00** in cash match to replace the Big Hole River Diversion Dam in the 2010 construction season.

¹ Butte Groundwater Injury Assessment Report, UCFR NPL Sites, January, 1995.

2008 Application		BUDGET SUMMARY FORM				
EXPENSE CATEGORY		UCFRB RESTORATION FUND	MATCHING FUNDS			TOTAL
			Cash	In-Kind	Subtotal	
1	SALARIES AND WAGES			\$19,980.88	\$19,980.88	\$19,980.88
2	FRINGE BENEFITS			\$8,270.63	\$8,270.63	\$8,270.63
3	CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$3,768,833.00	\$412,760.00		\$412,760.00	\$4,181,593.00
4	SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS					
5	COMMUNICATIONS					
6	TRAVEL					
7	RENT AND UTILITIES					
8	EQUIPMENT					
9	MISCELLANEOUS					
TOTAL		\$3,768,833.00	\$412,760.00	\$28,251.51	\$441,011.51	\$4,209,844.51

In electronic form this spreadsheet will automatically calculate the expense totals from the Budget Detail Form.